

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. CNCS awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:

Community Action Southwest
150 West Beau Street, Suite 304
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301 - 4425

Program Contact:

Jeffrey T. Fondelier, jfondelier@caswg.org

Program Period/Amount:

\$78,577 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography:

Greene County, Pennsylvania

Program Summary:

Community Action Southwest will recruit 88 RSVP volunteers who will serve in Greene County, a rural area of Southwest Pennsylvania. RSVP volunteer activities will support issues around aging in place, independent living and education with activities that include: packing and distributing home delivered meals to homebound elderly; educating older adults about financial literacy; working with VITA tax assistance program to prepare taxes for senior citizens, low-income individuals and people with disabilities; providing telephone reassurance to isolated seniors; and mentoring children through intergenerational activities in Head Start classrooms. At the end of the three-year grant, 350 older adults will report improved food security, 250 economically disadvantaged individuals will receive financial literacy services, 60 seniors will have increased social support through telephone reassurance, and 144 students in early childhood programs will demonstrate gains in school readiness.